month of January, 1986; if so, what are the names of the members of the delegation; and

(b) what was the object of their visit and what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does no arise.

Acceptance of huge commissions by army officers

910. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether involvement of some army officers, retired and serving, in the acceptance of huge commission in the purchases of defence equipment from abroad has recently come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the nature of defence purchases, the amount involved and the action taken by Government against the officials found involved in the deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) This Ministry has no information.

(b) Does not arise.

Cases relating to evasion of customs duties

911. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the cases which came to light during 1985 involving huge amounts of evasion of customs duties;

(b) what is the estimated loss of revenue to the Exchequer on account of those cases;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a separate body to deal expeditiously with the customs cases; and

(d) if so, what are the details of its constitution and by when it will come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up a Tribunal under Article 323B of the Constitution for more expeditious settlement of Customs and Central Excise matters, including valuation disputes. The details of its constitution and the date from which it will come into existence are yet to be finalised.

Shortage of small coins

912. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government in recent weeks to ease the shortage of small coins; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken/propose to take the following steps:—

(1) The existing Mints are being worked to their full capacity by increasing the number of working hours in all the three mints coupled with the operation of an incentive scheme for obtaining higher production.